



Official Publication of the Minnesota Transportation Museum, Inc.

May - June 1977



COMO SHOPS ORIENTATION...A few of the M.T.M. members attending the April 2 orientation program pause for a moment to have their picture taken before getting down to the business of learning shop procedures and equipment. Left to right are Bob Macnie, Dave Norman, Bob Mirick, Steve Olson (V.P., Vehicle Restoration and program coordinator), Jack Peterson and Bob Clarkson. If you missed this session, there will be another on May 14.

Official Publication of The Minnesota Transportation Museum, Inc.



MINNEGAZETTE

Published Bi-Monthly for members in good standing of the Minnesota Transportation Museum Inc.
Post Office Box 1300, Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Fellow Member,

The early spring this year quickly transformed the C-H line from its normal winter dormancy into a beehive of activity. The sunny skies and 88° temperatures on Easter Sunday proved too much of a temptation for Scott Heiderich and his merry band of motor-men, and car 1300 was brought out for a successful series of revenue runs on the earliest date on record.

Ken Snyder's construction forces have also taken advantage of the warm weather by successfully preparing over ¼ mile of new elevated grade for our recently approved Northern Extension. The main reason for the accelerated construction program this spring is a generous offer from Mr. Harold Brace of Railroad Services, Inc. of Lakeville, Minnesota, to donate the equipment and manpower necessary to lay nearly 1500 feet of track on the north end. If the weather continues to cooperate and everything else continues as planned, the trackage will be in place and tamped by the time you read this! All of us in the Museum owe a tremendous debt of thanks to Mr. Brace for his fine offer and to Ken Snyder for putting the whole project together on short notice. Special thanks also to all of the members who unselfishly gave of their time so that the M.T.M. portion of the project could remain on schedule.

George Isaacs reports that the Onan Family Foundation will make available \$1500 to help in our spring construction. This grant comes at a critical time and will be accepted with warmest thanks.

The warm weather has also led to increased activities at the Como Shops. There are several interesting restoration projects nearing completion with many others waiting for someone to come forward. The normal work sessions are on Wednesday evenings and most Saturdays, so why not give Steve Olson a call and get yourself involved.

I hope to see you all at the May 24 General Meeting.

Thanks,
FRANK SANDBERG

ATTENTION ALL TWIN CITY AREA MEMBERS...

The questionnaire on membership participation was sent out in March, and so far we have had a good return. However, there are still a number of members who have not returned their completed form. If you plan on participating in the MTM activities this year, please return the questionnaire immediately. Thank you.

Ken, Steve, and Scott

NO. 1300 OPENS THE SEASON ON EASTER SUNDAY...

On account of the beautiful, warm, sunny Easter Day, and because we need additional funds now for our NORTHERN EXTENSION, operations started with the earliest opening in our history - to the tune of over 400 passengers! We will operate on Sundays when the weather is forecast to be good until our normal opening weekend of May 21 to 22.

As you are all aware, when receiving insurance renewal premiums, the insurance rates are skyrocketing. In an effort to ensure and (if possible) increase the safety of our Como-Harriet operation (thereby maintaining our insurability AND low rates), we will hold a two hour training session for ALL past operators and prospective new operators during the first week in May. ALL operators should have attended one of the three sessions which will be held. If you wish to operate this season and did not attend, please contact me for a later make-up session. Also to be covered in the session will be techniques to

reduce wear and tare on the car and ways to improve our public image at C.H.S.L.

The streetcar will be available for operator PRACTICE sessions on Saturdays May 7 and May 14 from 10am until 2pm. All past and new operators are invited to renew their acquaintance with #1300 on those days.

Finally, we are again able to purchase more hats for our operators. They will be exactly the same as hats worn by most of our operators, and are custom made to fit your size. Please send your hat size (circumference in inches or millimeters is best) with a check for \$12 to me as soon as possible, and I will place an order.

A big thank you is in order to Ray and Casey Bensen for polishing up #1300 on short notice for her opening day, to George Isaacs and Bob Macnie for line cleanup and spot tamping, and Betsy Snyder and Judy Sandberg for garden preparations.

Thank you,
Scott Heiderich
VP, Vehicle Operations

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, MAY 24

The next M.T.M. General Membership Meeting will be held aboard car 1300 on May 24 at 8:00pm. Before this meeting, the flower gardens at Lake Harriet Station will be dedicated. Members of MTM, the Blue Bells Garden Club, the Minnesota Federation of Garden Clubs, and Boy Scout Troop 64 are invited to attend a short ceremony at 42nd St. After the ceremony, the streetcar will be operated for the Scouts, Garden Club and Museum members. The Garden Club and the Scouts are to be commended on their fine work of landscaping our former dandelion patch. Please try to attend the dedication.

After the meeting, George Isaacs will show rail and traction slides taken on his trip to Australia and New Zealand in March. As always, they are fabulous pictures of first rate transportation systems.

BILL GRAHAM
Executive V.P.

ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Acquisitions Committee officially met a few weeks ago in Soo Line caboose #99014. Committee members are Bill Graham, Bob Renz, Loren Martin, John Larkin, and Steve Olson. Reports were made on the various projects being considered including another streetcar, commuter coaches, a small diesel locomotive, and other passenger equipment.

The most recent acquisitions are a Clark 3-ton capacity forklift truck, and an ex-Soo Line motorcar. The forklift has already been restored, and is saving a lot of human effort by moving heavy objects. It should be of tremendous help in restoring #328.

Concern was expressed over our ability to secure retired Rock Island commuter coaches. It seems that the going price of these cars is several thousand dollars more than we expected. Since this type car is needed for railfan trips, the decision was made to secure one car. However, due to ambitious projects underway this spring, the Museum currently lacks the cash to purchase this car. Therefore, this committee is asking any interested members if they will loan money to the Museum for this purpose. Any such loans will be handled in a similar manner to previous loans. If you are willing to make a loan for this purpose, please contact Bill Graham (925-4806) or Steve Olson (825-6120).

Any suggestions you have for this committee will be appreciated.

Stephen B. Olson
Chairman
Acquisitions Committee



Another Rembrandt? No, it's just Bob Renz, our Master Mechanic, adding the finishing touch to the new forklift truck.

PROGRESS AT THE COMO SHOPS

The shop is coming alive as the warm weather allows us to work more freely. New faces are showing up as a result of the April orientation session. A few pieces of equipment are nearing completion, while other rolling stock is beginning massive restoration. The Dan Patch #100 creeps closer to being finished, with the only remaining major work to be done being a paint job and a truck overhaul. Streetcar #265 will have a finished exterior soon. Truck work and interior refurbishment will be the focus of this summer. We could complete this car in the not too distant future if you streetcar fans will come out as often as you can.

New projects begun include the triple combine #1102, and the steam locomotive #328. The #1102 will have a new coat of paint by April's end, with interior cleaning, painting and repair beginning in May. Plans for major mechanical work on this car are well under way. Work on the #328 has officially begun with a tender cleaning, and boiler cleansing already out of the way. Even some outer parts of the engine have been removed. However, future restoration will proceed slowly until Federal Government inspectors have looked over the engine, particularly the boiler.

Countless tasks lay ahead, from truck building and brake work to sweeping and just keeping the shop functionally neat and clean, (good housekeeping being an essential part of shop SAFETY procedures). If you are in any way interested in being a part of some tremendous progress this year, be sure to attend the second Shop Orientation session at 9:30 am, Saturday, May 14.

Remember, this is YOUR museum, and YOU can make it successful.

STEPHEN B. OLSON

V.P., Vehicle Restoration

WELCOME NEW M.T.M. MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined us since the new Membership Directory was compiled... Carol Andersen, St. Paul, William Bushey, Fridley, Barry Karlberg,

Crystal, Doug Kelm, St. Paul, James Otto, Minneapolis, and Michael Penn, St. Paul.

DAVID NORMAN

Membership Secretary

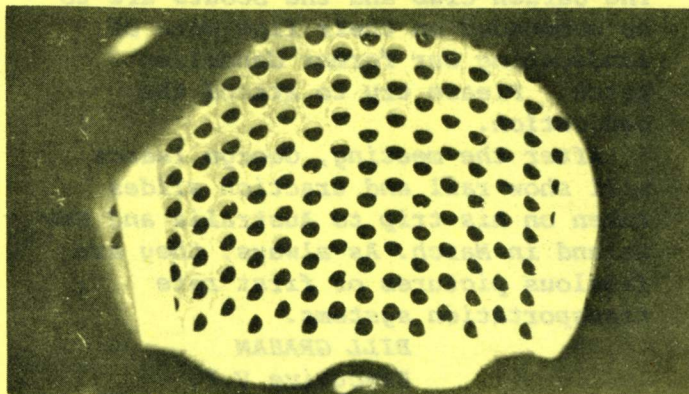
ATTENTION MODEL TROLLEY FANS...

Planning and preparation continue for the big gathering of model trolley fans, 'TROLLEY FEST '77', to be held September 23 to 25 at the Curtis Hotel. Publicity and construction of portable model trolley layouts are now under way.

Although MTM is not actually sponsoring the meet, MTM vehicles and facilities will play an important role in the meet, and many of the organizers of the meet are MTM members. Contact chairman Bill Olsen at 920-3887 for more information.



Blowing out the flues on #328 to remove squirrels and ashes (above). An unusual view of a steam locomotive firebox as our mechanics work on #328 (below).



PROGRESS ON THE NEW NORTHERN EXTENSION



In another example of his masterfull sense of timing, I'm afraid your editor arrived on the scene of the new Northern Extension just as the crew was breaking for lunch, on a rainy Saturday, April 2. Here Ken Snyder (right) discusses the afternoon's work plan with George Isaacs . Rented dozer helped move project along.

Clearing the new right of way.



End of track as of April 2, looking toward Lake Calhoun.



Rain failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the MTM members who attended the Como Shop orientation on April 2. Steve Olson explains the workings of Dan Patch #100 to the group (above), while a brief inspection of the shops outside area is made (left). Don't forget, if you missed this session, there will be another on May 14. You won't want to miss it!



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August 2021

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